

1449 Chelmsford Street NW
North Canton, OH 44720

January 27, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

Three years ago, Microsoft was brought to trial in the federal courts. Up until six months ago, absolutely no progress was made—it was just a waste of time and money. Now, a settlement has been proposed and is currently awaiting approval. Microsoft's opponents believe that the settlement lets Microsoft off too lightly and that Microsoft holds a dangerous monopoly over the consumer. They are wrong. Microsoft did not get off lightly in the settlement, they do not hold a dangerous monopoly, and the only thing that is harming the consumer is the litigation itself. The economy has been crippled over the past several years, and this is due in large part to the antitrust case, the amount of money that has been spent in litigation, and the panic of stockholders pulling out of their Microsoft shares. I do not believe it is in the best interest of the consumer to continue litigation against Microsoft. It can only do more damage to the economy and the technology industry.

The settlement needs no further deliberation or modification. Microsoft has been more than generous to its competitors, agreeing to terms that cover aspects of Microsoft technology and procedures that were not found to be in violation of antitrust laws. The settlement requires Microsoft to refrain from retaliation should software be introduced into the market that directly competes with Microsoft technology. Microsoft has also agreed to license the Windows operating system to twenty of the largest computer makers on identical terms and conditions, including price.

I can find no reason for litigation to be continued against Microsoft. As I see it, only more harm can come to the public if this drags on for much longer. I ask you to support the settlement as it now stands.

Sincerely,

Richard Miller
Richard Miller